(b) The list of 578 rural districts include 17 in West Bengal. The names of the districts are Bankura, Bardhaman, Birbhum, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Dakshin, Dinajpur, Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Malda, Medinipur, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Paraganas, Purulia, South 24 Parganas, and Uttar Dinajpur.

Substandard seeds, manure and pesticides

2600. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that substandard seeds, manure and pesticides are reponsible for low agricultural production;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study to assess this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of existing mechanisms to regulate quality of seeds, manure and pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The use of quality inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are the most important determinants of agricultural production and productivity. Accordingly, cultivars, pesticides and fertilizers are assessed before release/notification/registration. Government have provided legal framework of strengthen the quality assurance regime for various agriucltural inputs under the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rules, 1968, Seeds (Control) order, 1983, Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, Insecticides Act, 1968 & Insecticides Rules, 1971 as amended from time to time. Enforcement of these legal instruments is vested with the State Governments/Union Territories. Inspectors notified under these legal instruments are empowered to draw samples, seize stocks, issue stop sale orders in case the commodities under reference contravene these Act, Rules and Orders.

Research projects by ICAR for Andhra Pradesh

2601. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research projects in agriucltural funded by the Indian